



RITE NOTES

15 February 2025

A The Trap Door" At the base of the Triangle

Companions and Sir Knights,

Each of us has heard of the old Atrap doors@ created by building architects of the past. They were hinged platforms hidden in inconspicuous locations within the floor, and with the slightest tug of a pin, chain or rope, the person standing on the Atrap door@ would disappear from sight, and fall into a pre-determined chamber. They may have become prisoners and faced cruel torture, but generally were never seen again.

Are Chapters, Councils and Commanderies ready to properly introduce these new Companions and Sir Knights to our history and our heritage? Will this information stimulate these new Sir Knights to return to the Asylum, and want to become actively engaged in our travels, or will they fall through the Atrap door@ never to be heard from again.

Recruiting new members for any fraternity is hard work. It requires time, and resources committed to a single purpose. But new Sir Knights can be lost in a heartbeat if they are not properly and personally welcomed and assimilated into the fraternity by its leadership. After the knighting, but before they return home, they need to be given a Anew member packet@ with their name on it by the Eminent Commander. What information should be contained in the information packet?

The answer to what should be contained in this packet of information is endless, but here are a few suggestions that should be mandatory:

A personal letter of congratulations and welcome to the new Sir Knights signed by the Eminent Commander preferably on Commandery stationary. This letter should contain information on Stated Meetings, and invite him to attend the next one. A letter from the Grand Commander would be ideal if logistically possible.

A list of the Officers of the local Chapter, Council and Commandery along with their addresses both telephone and Acell phone@ numbers and e-mail addresses. Include the names of their spouses.

A summary of special activities of that Commandery that may have become traditions and part of its local heritage: annual events, Quarterly events, Special Holiday events and planned events. Mention activities like trips, picnics, cookouts, festivals, parades and celebrations, that include the ladies and the entire family. Encourage them to attend and bring a friend.

History of your local York Rite Bodies: the dates of their Charters, the size of its membership, how many live out of state, how long have you met in the current building, interesting stories from your history, Public or Fraternal leaders (past and present) that are proud members. Include the ladies as they too may have assumed key leadership roles in selected organizations. This is a time to promote your long history.

List the names of any Masonic AYouth Groups@ that may meet locally, and the names of the leaders along with their telephone numbers. Many new Sir Knights may have children or grandchildren who might fit the age criteria to belong. If not, at least give them a summary of the purpose of the organization. Informational brochures are available locally for DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, and Order of the Rainbow Girls.

A History of the glorious Knights Templar, and its evolution into the fraternity we now belong. The Grand Encampment Office publishes a list of the information that is currently available. It is distributed to each Grand Recorder and to the Officers of each Grand Commandery.

A summary of the Philanthropies of each of the Bodies.

A description of the Knights Templar Education Foundation describing the scholarship program available to qualifying students.

1. As you know, we now live in an information age. People are busy, live in the fast lane, and are pressed for time. They want to participate in organizations if it is worth their time, and experience a sense of fulfillment by belonging. The sharing of information and knowledge is critical to making new Knights Templar and their family feels welcomed in a new fraternal order.

Think about it. It is the right thing to do. You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Perhaps you will be starting a new tradition, but you will have eliminated the invisible Atrap door@. You will also be displaying leadership, and retaining new members. Don=t talk about it, just do it! Don=t, take a vote, just do it! Take charge. Make it happen.

2. A Commandery or York Rite dues card with the new Sir Knights name on it.

3. As you know, we now live in the “Information Age”. People are busy, live in the fast lane, and are pressed for time. They want to participate in organizations if it is worth their time, and experience a sense of fulfillment by belonging. The sharing of information and knowledge is critical to making new Knights Templar and their family feel welcomed in a new fraternal order.

4. Think about it. It’s the right thing to do. You never get a second chance to make a first impression, Perhaps, you’ll be starting a new tradition, but you will have eliminated the invisible “trap door”. You will also be displaying leadership, and retaining new members, Don’t, talk about it, just do it! Don’t take a vote, just do it! Take charge. Make it Happen!

There is no substitute for an all-out campaign to strengthen and build our membership.

Membership and Retention is everyone’s business.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND CHAPTER OF FLORIDA

CHAPTER SIXTEEN – SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, CONSOLIDATION AND MERGER 15.01 CONSOLIDATION OF CHAPTERS

16.01 Consolidation of Chapters.

Two or more Chapters having concurrent jurisdiction or establishment in adjoining jurisdictions may be consolidated into one Chapter. Provided that the request for such consolidation shall be presented at a Regular Convocation of each Chapter, which request shall be acted upon at a subsequent Regular Convocation, notice of which shall be mailed to all members which each Chapter at least ten days prior to such Convocation. Such consolidation cannot be affected if nine or more members of either Chapter vote against consolidation. A

majority vote of those present shall be necessary to adopt the resolution for consolidation. The vote against consolidation being less than nine.

16.02 Retention or Replacement of Officers.

Two or more Chapters having been thus consolidated may unite under the Charter of anyone of the said Chapters, retaining the Officers thereof, or they may elect new Officers under authorization of the Grand High Priest.

16.03 Disposition of Assets and Members.

The Title of all Property and effects of the consolidated Chapters shall vest in the new Chapter and the new chapter should be liable for all indebtedness, indebtedness of the several Chapters consolidating. All members of the consolidated Chapters shall immediately become members of the new Chapter.

16.04 Regulatory Procedures.

Procedures for proposing, processing, notification, voting and implementing consolidation and/or merges of Royal Arch Masonic Chapters within the Grand Jurisdiction shall be in accord with the provisions prescribed in Chapter 16, Digest of Masonic Law of Florida (1997- effective May 20, 1997).

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Membership by District for 2024:

DIST	LOCATION	#	DIST	LOCATION	#
1	Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	1
	Ft Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami	1		Fort Pierce	
2	Manatee/ Bradenton/ Trinity		7	Jacksonville	3
	Sarasota/ Venice/ Fort Myers			Fernandina	2
				St Augustine	
				Palatka	5
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)		8	Lake City	
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Middleburg	1
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	1
4	Lakeland		9	Tallahassee	
	Plant City			Marianna	
	Sebring (Highlands)			Panama City	
5	Daytona (Halifax)	5	10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Lake Sumter	4		Crestview	
	Sanford			Pensacola	
	Orlando				

REMINDER: MASONIC MEMBERSHIP SOLUTIONS (MMS) RULES STATE THAT NEW COMPANIONS AND SIR KNIGHTS NEED TO BE PLACED IN MMS WITHIN 15 DAYS. If this is not done, the magazine will not be sent automatically. The Secretary will have to contact Grand Encampment.

MMS IS NOW ON GOOGLE CHROME

New Membership by York Rite Body 2024:

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	1 & 8 Mar	Tampa	
4			
5			
6	28-29 Mar 14-15 Sep 24	Stuart	
7	8 & 15 Feb	Palatka (5), Jacksonville (3), Gainesville (1), Miami (1), Lake Sumter (4), Daytona (5), Middleburg (1), Fernandina Beach (2) and Cocoa (1)	23
8			
9	Feb/Mar	Tallahassee Panama City	
10			
TOTAL 2025 KNIGHTINGS			23
TOTAL 2024 KNIGHTINGS			79

Also, as soon as your area determines the dates for the Spring Festival, **PLEASE** let me know so they may be included.

Fraternally,

Henry A. Adams
HENRY A. ADAMS, KYGCH

Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar"

Some excerpts, from the Grand Commanders Handbook, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, reprint from Aug 2009, intro. and Grand Commandery of Florida, Beaderstadt, Jon L. " Making Members" pp 73-75, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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